

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
SECSTATE WASHDC 3058
USDOE GERMANTOWN
USDOE WASHDC

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IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, PARM, MNUC, TECH, AS, IT
SUBJ: VISIT OF ITALIAN ENERGY OFFICIALS TO AUSTRALIA

REF: ROME 2990(NOTAL)

1. ITALIAN ENERGY DELEGATION DID VISIT AUSTRALIA IN LATE
MARCH FOR URANIUM DISCUSSIONS WITH BOTH GOA AND INDUSTRY
OFFICIALS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT NO FORMAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS WERE RELEASED BY GOA OR PRIVATE SECTOR CONCERNING
THE NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS.

2. RESOURCES ATTACHE QUERIED OFFICIAL OF URANIUM DIVISION,
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND RESOURCES ABOUT THE VISIT. INFORMAL
DISCUSSIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: (A) ITALIANS WERE
BRIEFED ON GOA POLICY DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT
OF THE AUSTRALIAN URANIUM INDUSTRY. ITALIANS WERE
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PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE FORTHCOMING GOA URANIUM
MARKETING AUTHORITY. DETAILS OF THE LATTER SHOULD BE
KNOWN WITHIN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS; GOA DID TAKE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS ITS VIEWS ON NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS,
OBVIOUSLY ALONG THE LINES OF THE GOA NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS
BILATERAL AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN CIRCULATED; (B) ITALIANS
WERE SEEKING EQUITY IN AUSTRALIAN URANIUM MINES. HOWEVER,

MOST WOULD SHARE THE VIEW THAT IT IS A LITTLE LATE FOR THE ITALIANS TO GET INTO THE QUEUE AS WHAT IS NEEDED IN AUSTRALIA IS NOT MORE FOREIGN EQUITY BUT MORE AUSTRALIAN EQUITY IN URANIUM MINING; (C) ITALIANS TRIED TO INTEREST GOA IN TAKING EQUITY IN EURODIF FOR THE FUTURE ENRICHMENT OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM. GOA EXPRESSED LITTLE INTEREST IN NOTION, AND ARE UNLIKELY TO FOLLOW THROUGH SINCE AUSTRALIA IS INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ITS OWN URANIUM ENRICHMENT CAPABILITY.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE VISIT WAS INDEED A VERY LOW-KEYED AND INFORMAL AFFAIR WITH LITTLE IN THE WAY OF CONCRETE RESULTS. IT APPEARS THAT GOA MADE NO COMMITMENTS CONCERNING THE FUTURE MARKETING OF AUSTRALIAN URANIUM OR TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS INHERENT IN DEVELOPING THE URANIUM INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA.
ALSTON

NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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